

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for telephoning Applicant's attorney, Jeremy P. Occek, on January 27, 2004 to discuss the above-referenced application.

Applicant submits that, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, pending claims 13-20 are enabled in view of the disclosure in the specification and the general knowledge in the art. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the arguments contained in the Appeal Brief filed on May 17, 1999, and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicant has submitted a new Terminal Disclaimer as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Terminal Disclaimer submitted on September 2, 1998 is hereby withdrawn. With the entry of the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the double-patenting rejection in this application.

Applicant has also submitted an Information Disclosure Statement, Form PT0-1449, and copies of the patents (A1-A22, B1) and publications (C1-C27) listed on the Form PT0-1449. Applicant requests that each of these patents and publications, and any other information contained on the Information Disclosure Statement, be made of record in this application. Applicant notes that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 3, 2003 was not considered, and therefore, Applicant has submitted the present Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of this application.

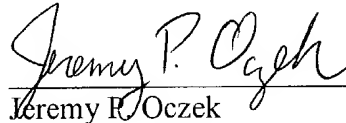
The enclosed check of \$440.00 includes the required fees of: (1) \$385.00 for filing of the Request for Continued Examination (small entity) and (2) \$55.00 for filing of the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer (small entity). Applicant believes that no other fees are due with this submission. However, if any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that pending claims 13-20 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any further issues of patentability be determined to exist, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the favorable prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 6, 2004



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